



The President's Daily Brief

31 May 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Korean officials have threatened retaliation if the UN Command does not return a defecting pilot, who appeared at a news conference today. (Page 1)

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The Indians report that the influx of refugees continues, and hint of possible consequences unless the situation improves. (Page 3)

Dissension is said to be growing within Allende's Socialist Party. (Page 4)

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NORTH KOREA

Pyongyang, upon being informed at Panmunjom on 26 May that the North Korean pilot who strayed into South Korean airspace late last year wished to remain in the south, rejected an offer to have a "disinterested third party" verify that this was the pilot's free decision. North Korean officials at the meeting maintained the pilot was being held for "a foul political purpose" and threatened "disadvantageous results" for the UN Command if he were not returned.

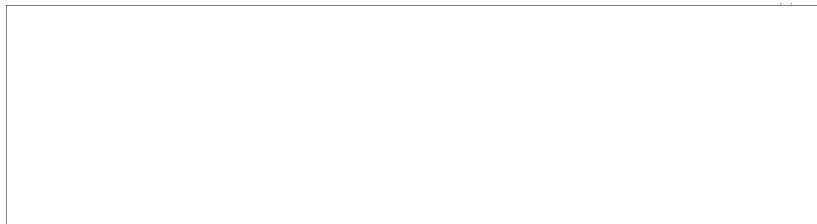
Ambassador Porter in Seoul believes North Korea's threats, and similar warnings issued recently concerning alleged US overflights of its territory, must be taken seriously. He suggests that Pyongyang may try to hijack US commercial air flights in the area, kidnap someone from the Panmunjom conference site, or attack US picket ships in the Sea of Japan. Although we have no evidence that Pyongyang is actively preparing any dramatic reprisals, a move against US citizens or interests cannot be ruled out, given North Korea's penchant for sudden, apparently irrational acts of this sort.

The pilot has been in the hands of the South Korean Government for the past six months. His appearance at a news conference today is likely to set the North Koreans even more on edge.

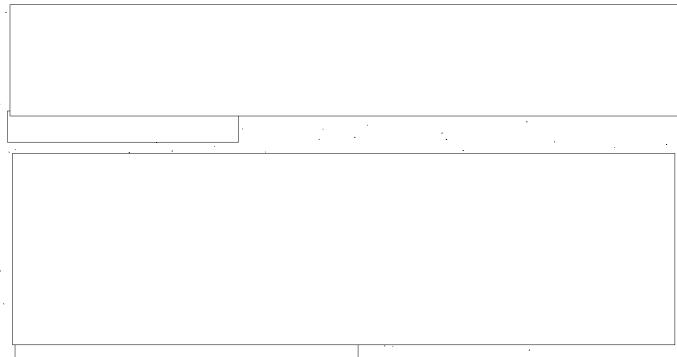
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JAPAN-CHINA



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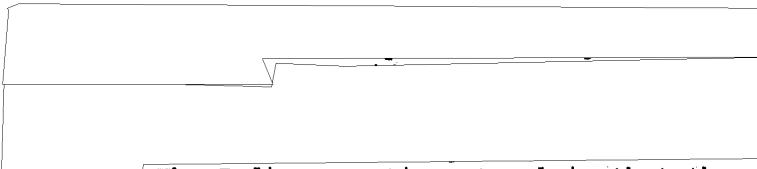
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INDIA-PAKISTAN

Indian External Affairs Secretary Banerji told US Chargé Stone on Saturday that there had been no abatement in the number of refugees entering India, and warned that it will be difficult for New Delhi to follow a "correct policy" if the influx continues. Reports that Pakistani authorities have destroyed the deeds to property of fleeing Hindus have added to Indian concern. Moreover, during the past few days 160 refugees in camps in West Bengal have died of cholera, and medical officials fear a severe epidemic when monsoon rains begin in early July.



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The Indians continue to claim that the Pakistanis are trying to provoke them.

Both countries are intensifying their efforts to curry favor abroad--the Indians with a 40-page brochure complete with grisly photographs of alleged Pakistani atrocities. On Saturday Peking reiterated its "firm support" for Pakistan's "just struggle to safeguard state sovereignty and oppose foreign intervention," but did not commit China to any course of action in the event of hostilities.

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CHILE

Dissatisfaction is rising among both young extremists and the old guard within Allende's Socialist Party. Many of the veteran Socialists lost access to party councils when Carlos Altamirano became secretary general in February. They complain that the central committee disregarded the need for political credentials when it bestowed party membership on more than 50 officials appointed to government positions. They are also irked by the efforts to improve party organization and discipline.

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The young extremists, for their part, are said to object to instructions from the party leadership to end cooperation with the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). They are particularly critical of its efforts to curtail MIR land invasions and organizational activities in the slums.

The extremists' resentments could lead them, like dissenters in the past, to bolt the party. Many of the complaints of both groups stem from measures that Allende and Altamirano apparently consider necessary to strengthen the party against the better organized Communist Party. Altamirano's current travels to Havana and Moscow may be part of another effort to protect the Socialists' flanks among friends abroad.

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